

# ALPHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Alphington Primary School office on 94992200.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our school community and explain the vision, mission and objectives of our school.

## POLICY

Alphington Primary School is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Our school recognises the importance of the partnership between our school and parents and carers to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.

The programs and teaching at Alphington Primary School support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- elected government
- the rule of law
- equal rights for all before the law
- freedom of religion
- freedom of speech and association
- the values of openness and tolerance.

This policy outlines our school's vision, mission, objective, values and expectations of our school community. This policy is available on our school website and our staff induction handbook.

To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our school community, we

- display posters and banners that promote our values in our school
- celebrate our values in our school newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

## VISION

At Alphington Primary School the student is at the centre of the highly engaged community. Students are striving for personal excellence, supported by professional and dedicated staff who are inspiring learning, creativity and self-belief.

## MISSION

Alphington Primary School has an unrelenting focus on academic excellence ensuring all students achieve their potential through a rich, challenging and flexible curriculum which includes the skills for learning and life and the belief that students can make a difference in their world.

## OBJECTIVE

Our school's objectives are considered as part of the 4 yearly strategic planning process and reflected in the goals listed in our current School Strategic Plan (SSP). We also develop an Annual Implementation Plan to operationalise the goals and key improvement strategies contained in our SSP.

## VALUES

Alphington Primary School's values are respect, kindness, resilience, integrity and curiosity.

Alphington Primary School's values are represented through the colors of the iconic lizard. The Alphington lizard consists of many interlocking elements that contribute to our well respected, successful school. These include students, teachers, parents, community members, the learning environment and opportunity.

The five colours represent the values that we promote:

Kindness (Yarra blue): demonstrating empathy and being inclusive; displaying gratitude.

Respect (Sandstone): consideration for self, others and the world around us; being polite and courteous.

Resilience (Wisteria): being flexible and able to bounce back; being optimistic.

Curiosity (Gumleaf): showing interest and wonder; making choices; a love of learning.

Integrity (Ochre): being honest and fair; having a sense of what's right and living it.

The muted colour palette represents the colours of the Yarra River and its surrounding bushlands while the lines between them signify the flowing water.

Much like the school the lizard appears in motion, depicting a readiness to move forward. Its energy is evident characterising the zest for learning our children demonstrate.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Alphington Primary School acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our school community and culture.

Staff have a range of expectations around behaviour and must follow our school and Department policies and the Victorian Public Service Code of Conduct and Values. Teaching staff also adhere to the [Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct](#).

Students are supported by school staff to meet expected standards of behaviour as outlined in our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, Bullying Prevention Policy.

Information about the expectations on parents and carers to ensure schools remain respectful and inclusive places is outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#).

## UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS

Schools are not public places, and the Principal has the right to permit or deny entry to school grounds for more information, see our Visitors Policy.

Unreasonable behaviour that is demonstrated by school staff, parents, carers, students or members of our school community will not be tolerated at school, or during school activities.

Unreasonable behaviour includes:

- being violent or threatening violence of any kind, including physically intimidating behaviour such as aggressive hand gestures or invading another person's personal space
- speaking or behaving in a rude, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via email, social media, or over the telephone
- sending demanding, rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- discriminatory or derogatory comments
- the use of social media or public forums to make inappropriate or threatening remarks about the school, staff or students.

Harassment, bullying, violence, aggression, threatening behaviour and unlawful discrimination are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at our school.

Unreasonable behaviour and/or failure to uphold the principles of this *Statement of Values and School Philosophy* may lead to further investigation and the implementation of appropriate consequences by the Principal.

At the Principal's discretion, unreasonable behaviour may be managed by:

- requesting that the parties attend a mediation or counselling sessions
- implementing specific communication protocols
- written warnings
- conditions of entry to school grounds or school activities
- exclusion from school grounds or attendance at school activities
- reports to Victoria Police
- legal action.

Inappropriate student behaviour will be managed in accordance with our school's Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy.

Our *Statement of Values and School Philosophy* ensures that everyone in our school community will be treated with fairness and respect. In turn, we will strive to create a school that is inclusive and safe, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)

Alphington Primary School policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Complaints Policy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2022
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	July 2025